

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 16, 1985

Published Since 1877

Brotherhood unveils two new departments

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved a 1985-86 budget of \$2,858,568 and prayed for the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas this summer after hearing Commission President James H. Smith express concern the SBC has reached the point where "the good guys are fighting the good guys."

Meeting at the Woman's Missionary Union headquarters building in Birmingham, Ala., April 25-27, Brotherhood Commission trustees heard Smith say, "It used to be that the good guys only fought the bad guys, but Satan is driving a wedge between us that is causing us to fight among ourselves."

"This division is threatening to prevent us from carrying our Bold Mission Thrust, and only the leadership of the Holy Spirit and humble hearts of Christian men and women can bring about the healing out convention so desperately needs," he said before leading the group in prayer.

The bulk of the budget, \$1,077,965, will be spent on Brotherhood program

services. Support services will utilize \$679,623; administrative services is set for \$653,668; and business services is budgeted for \$435,822.

Income for funding the agency's budget includes \$888,500 from the Cooperative Program and \$1,872,000 from sales of Brotherhood periodicals and merchandise.

The Brotherhood Commission staff unveiled two new departments in program services. The children and youth department will be directed by Russell Griffin who has been Pioneer Royal Ambassador director at the agency since November 1981. Griffin is former Royal Ambassador consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The adult department will be led by Douglas Beggs, Baptist Men's Director for the past three years.

Crusader and Pioneer Royal Ambassadors and High School Baptist Young Men will be in the children and youth department. Collegiate Baptist Young Men, Career Baptist Young Men, and Senior Baptist Men will make up the adult department.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Simpson will celebrate Associational Week

Simpson County Association will celebrate Associational Emphasis Week (May 20-26) in a special way on Sunday, May 26. Each church in the association is being asked to promote the emphasis on that date, and to take a special offering to help pay off the

debt of the association's Crisis Center. Thus, the date will be called Simpson Association Harvest Day.

Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. there will be a special program in the auditorium of Simpson Baptist Center. Paul Padgett, associational music director, will lead the congregational singing and special music from four churches.

Earl Kelly, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak. Other program personalities will include Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU; Dan Hall, director, Church Music, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Chester Vaughn, program director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Harold Kitchings, executive secretary, Miss. Baptist Foundation.

Open house will be held at the association center, crisis center, retreat area, and director of missions' home. Hostesses will be wives of pastors of the association. H. Glen Schilling director of missions, Simpson Association, invites the public to attend this service and open house.

More Jews can leave Russia

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. (EP) — Dozens of Jewish families, including many that had previously been refused permission to emigrate, have been told by Soviet authorities here to reapply for exit visas. In the past Soviet authorities have generally granted exit permits when long-time applicants are called in.

Israeli Radio reported that 280 families, or about 1,000 people, would be allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union in April, but Moscow sources have not verified those figures.



Acteens send balloons soaring over Gulfport

"By Love Compelled" was the insignia on 1,300 balloons released into the atmosphere by as many Mississippi Acteens at their first convention of the 1980s held recently at First Church, Gulfport. In the park between the church and the

beach, there was music by a group from the Perkinson campus of Gulf Coast Junior College, and a chicken lunch that didn't pan out. (See story on page 4). — Photos by Tim Nicholas



Acteens from the Gulf Coast Association dressed as clowns to give out balloons and greet Acteens. Here are "Flowers" also known as Jennifer Williams, and "Punk Sister" also known as Tina Rainer. Both go to Success Baptist Church.

Pakistan Bible workers set goal to triple

NEW YORK, NY (ABS) — Bible workers in Pakistan have developed a plan which should triple their annual Scripture distribution to 15 million copies before the end of the decade, the American Bible Society reports.

Known as the "Thousand Outlet Plan," it will increase to at least that number the channels through which Pakistanis of all ages receive their Scriptures.

Because of transportation and communications problems, the Bible Society must rely on pastors, church "bookrooms" and volunteer workers as its primary means of distributing the Word of God.

There are now some 250 of these outlets, a considerable increase over the past four years. But the ultimate goal is to quadruple that number by 1990.

Because more than 40 languages are spoken in Pakistan, translation is given special priority. Some of these languages do not yet have even one word of the Scriptures.

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Witness in Argentina

Life-changing experiences come at unexpected times and places, and surely such a distant place as Argentina was not expected to produce such. But one cannot go down there and have fellowship with the Baptists of that nation and come away the same as he was.

The trip just recently completed was my third visit to that country, but this time I had opportunity to get acquainted with local Baptist people because of finding it more convenient to stay in one place longer rather than to move around from place to place as had been the pattern before.

Moving about had been the intention for this trip also, but I will be forever grateful that it didn't work that way, for I found new friends who will be an inspiration to me for the remainder of my life.

Some 55 or so Mississippi Baptists have recently returned from Argentina and Uruguay, where we were engaged in evangelistic campaigns. For the most part, I was involved in meetings and witnessing in two cities in Argentina, and I can only speak from that perspective. I understand that the experiences of all of the others were as rich as mine.

In the first place, it is an inspiration just to be around the Baptists in Argentina. To realize that these are people who live thousands of miles from my home, who live in a different culture, who speak a different language, yet who have the same faith that I have is a thrill in itself. It seems to mean a great deal more to them, however. To begin with, they are such a small percentage of the population that their fellowship with each other is very meaningful.

There were many memorable moments both in the church at Rio

Gallegos and in Bella Vista Church in Godoy Cruz, a suburb of Mendoza.

Rio Gallegos is the farthest south one can go and remain on the mainland of South America. I spent a week there along with Jesse McMillan of Sallis and missionary Toby Walker. We were guests of Jose Oposzo and his wife, Marisa. Marisa also goes by the more familiar name of Mary. They both work for the government's petroleum company, and they have been married six months. She was not a Christian when Jose first began to communicate with her, though he was a member of the Baptist church in Rio Gallegos. She now is one of the more faithful members of the church and walked away in tears as we said our final goodbye at the airport. They both sing in the choir.

Rio Gallegos is not a pretty town, being in a sort of desert environment and also subject to the cold temperatures and turbulent winds of the area near the Antarctic. The Baptists there, however, are warm, dedicated, and hospitable.

There is no forgetting the ex-

perience of walking with an interpreter into a house where a young man was reading a Communist newspaper and where an older man also resides, beginning to witness through the interpreter, and seeing the young man throw away his Communist paper and make a profession of faith. The older man also accepted Christ. Not to be forgotten is the young Army bandsman who introduced us to several of his Army friends so that they could hear the witness. During the revival he played his clarinet and his wife sang for one service. The song was the Spanish version of "How Great Thou Art."

An unexpected blessing in Rio Gallegos was a man named James O'Brien. Such a name would indicate that he was not a native of the area; and, indeed he is from Denver, Colo. He is bi-lingual, however, having gone there as a Christian Missionary Alliance missionary. He is now a Baptist. At the time of the revival he was trying to determine a direction for his life, whether to stay or return to the United States (he has been in Argentina 10 years), and he was not work-



ing. He donated his time completely to the revival effort. He borrowed a car and drove the team wherever it needed to go. He served as translator

as needed, which allowed us to have two teams working each day instead of one. And he was available to (Continued on page 5)

Guest Opinion . . .

Associational Emphasis Week

By J. Ray Grissett

During the week of May 20-26, churches and associations will be involved in an emphasis with a theme on "The Association: Missions with a Personal Touch."

Jets can whisk food and other emergency supplies to scenes of disaster and devastation, but who is going to live and minister to the hungry and the hurting?

Word Processing can personalize a letter from a pastor to last Sunday's church visitor, but who is going to visit the lonely widow on the other side of the town?

The television evangelist can promise health, wealth, and happiness to a faithful audience; but who is going to hold the hand of a frightened, ill child? Technological advances and sophisticated strategies are so much a part of home missions today as were the circuit-riding preachers and tent revivals of yesterday. Yet, however sophisticated strategies are as much — and our denomination — become, technology and strategies can never replace the essential "personal touch" of missions.

The essence of missions is not in technology and strategies. The essence of missions is in the individual.

Missions is found in living and ministering among the hungry and hurting.

Missions is found in visiting the lonely widow on the other side of town. Missions is found in holding the hand of a frightened, ill child.

Missions is found in churches working together — through the association — to touch their world for Christ.

According to William G. Tanner in *Hurry Before Sundown*, "The meaning of the incarnation is found only in

the God who becomes 'flesh' and wears our shoes, seeing human agony and ecstasy, hearing our cries, and touching our joys and our sorrows."

Jesus, in his words, provides a mandate for the personal touch.

Much is being said today about the need for "high touch" in the midst of "high tech." Just as people in Jesus' day needed the personal touch, people in contemporary society need the personal touch. This need is just as real today as it was 2,000 years ago.

The challenge of Bold Mission Thrust is that every person in the world will have opportunity to hear and respond to the Christian gospel by the year 2000. The only way that this can be accomplished is through the personal touch — through people building relationships and personally becoming involved with others . . . in Jesus' name. Ultimately, missions is a relationship, not a program.

For many people, the Baptist association is the one place where missions becomes more than a program. In the association, missions becomes a living, caring relationship.

It has been said: "A vision without a task is a dream. A task without a vision is drudgery, but a vision and task are the hope of this world."

All across Mississippi, associations and the leadership composed mostly of volunteers are determining needs and marshalling forces for our Southern Baptist response. These thousands of people who make up associational workers are entering today's needs while at the same time looking to tomorrow. Associations under the leadership of very able and capable directors are putting Christ's

love to work and making his Word come alive for the hungry and the hurting, the widow on the other side of town, the frightened and ill child.

The association is churches on mission together, touching people in their community with Christ's love.

If you and your church are not already involved in the enhancing

ministry through your local association, I challenge you and implore you to be a part of the larger scene of ministry through the efforts within your own area through your local association.

J. Ray Grissett is associational administration consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

SBC day of prayer

The presidents of the state conventions within the framework of the Southern Baptist Convention have called for a day of prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention, that will be June 11 to 13 in Dallas.

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Charles Pickering initiated a meeting of 23 state convention presidents last month in St. Louis, Mo., and during that meeting the presidents agreed on the plan of establishing May 19 as a day of prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The statement of the state convention presidents is to be found on Page 3 of this issue. It has been presented previously, but its importance is of such nature that it needs to be noted again before the convention and before this scheduled day of prayer.

This is a time when all of us need to join in prayer for the health of the convention. Obviously there are men of prayer on both sides of the current controversy; and while they may not be able to come to an agreement on issues, they can only have already agreed that directions in the Lord's work are to be sought in prayer.

The Baptist Record has sought to

discuss issues in the controversy facing Southern Baptists as they have seemed to be needed without taking one side or the other. We have not agreed with the many who have said that the time is past when one can avoid taking sides. We do stand forthrightly in favor of prayer, however, and we feel that the time is upon us when effectual and fervent prayer is not only called for but is necessary. Perhaps our dilemma is due to a lack of such prayer in the past.

Surely the Lord can lead us. There can be no question about that. Also there can be no question about the fact that our work will be more effective if it is led by the Lord.

Our problem is to find the Lord's leadership. We can do that through prayer if we will make ourselves willing to listen. And once we have found the leadership, we must also find the faith it will take to follow it.

Can we humble ourselves enough to seek the Lord's direction? And if we find it, will we have faith enough to believe and to follow?

If we don't, we all will have lost the battle — both sides of us. There is no other choice.

We must find the correct approach.

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Charles Pickering

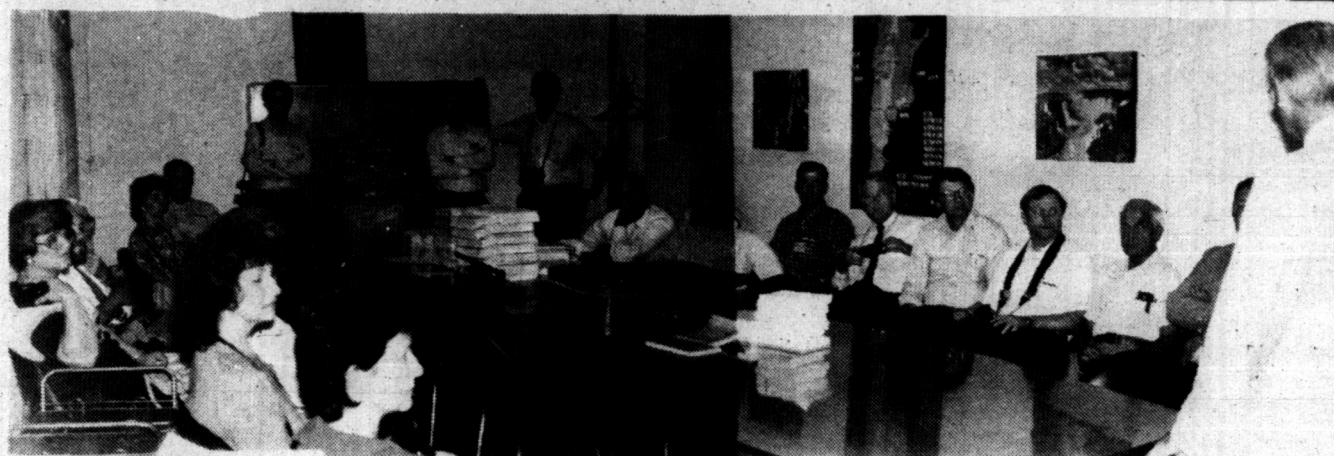
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Number 15



The first Mississippi group arrives in Argentina for evangelistic crusades in 40 churches scattered all the way from Rio Grande in Tierra del Fuego to San Juan. There were 44 in the group as the members are welcomed at the international seminary in Buenos Aires by Mell Plunk, standing at right. Plunk is a missionary to Argentina and is serving as South American coordinator for the partnership endeavor between Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina and Mississippi Baptists. Don Mines, missionary to Argentina, is serving as Mississippi coordinator. Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department, was leader for this group of Mississippians in Argentina. Chester Vaughn, program director, led a smaller group in Uruguay at the same time. The groups served in one set of churches for one week and moved to other churches for the second week. Another group left May 13. A fourth one is scheduled for the middle of June.

Crusades in Argentina result in 1,469 converts

By Don McGregor

Seventy-five Mississippians have returned from the Rio de la Plata in South America reporting that doors are wide open for the gospel.

Forty-four of the Baptists, which included a few from other states, went to 40 churches in Argentina; and 31 evangelists, also including a few from other states, went to 13 churches in Uruguay.

Of the Argentina group there were 37 from Mississippi, and seven others from Texas, Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In addition the group was joined by a journey girl who is living in Buenos Aires, making a company of 45 in all.

Of the 32 who went to Uruguay, there were 19 from Mississippi and 13 from other states.

The Rio de la Plata is the reference made to the three South American nations of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. The actual Rio de la Plata is the large fresh water river flowing into the Atlantic Ocean between Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Montevideo, Uruguay, that is formed

by the confluence of the Parana and Uruguay rivers. The Parana is fed by the Paraguay River.

The 40 crusades in Argentina resulted in 1,469 professions of faith. In the 13 crusades in Uruguay there were 429 professions of faith. This made the total for both groups 1,898 professions of faith in 53 crusades. Thus the average held at about 36 professions of faith per church in each of the countries and thus on the total.

All of the evangelistic workers reported that the people of the two countries are very receptive to the gospel. Some noted that professions of faith were made in three out of four houses visited. Others declared that it was a rare occasion when there was not a profession of faith.

The teams were made up generally of a preacher and one or more who were charged with witnessing in the homes. In some cases there was only a preacher. Usually missionaries served as interpreters. A few of the teams had more than two people plus the interpreter.

Three such campaigns are set up for this year. The meetings in April were generally in more southern areas, because it is fall in Argentina; and the farther south one goes the colder it is. Another group of Mississippi Baptists left Monday for Argentina, and their areas will be more in the central portions of the nation. In June the final group will visit more northern areas of Argentina.

The trip was not without its tragic moments. Missionary interpreter Toby Walker had to drop out after the first week due to the illness of both of his parents in Oklahoma. He was called home to check on them, but reports at the end of the second week indicated that both had improved.

In Rio Grande the wife of pastor Ignacio Gariglio died of a cerebral hemorrhage on the Saturday of the meeting and was buried on Sunday, but services were continued on Sunday evening with the pastor present.

The Rio Grande team of Milton Koon of Booneville and Paul Harrell of Jackson made a Sunday morning

(Continued on page 6)

Missionary letters foster churches' prayer support

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—New bonds of prayer are being established between Southern Baptists' 36,000 churches and their foreign missionaries.

To undergird Southern Baptist work abroad, the Foreign Mission Board has mailed each missionary a list of 10 churches to write, requesting ongoing prayer support. New missionaries will receive the names of churches not yet assigned.

Prayer for missions "is fundamental, not supplemental," says Catherine Walker, special assistant to the FMB

president for intercessory prayer since 1981.

Walker retires May 15 and will be succeeded by Minette Drumwright, who has been assistant to the executive vice-president since 1982. The lists were mailed in January and good reports about the effort already are coming in.

After receiving a letter from a missionary in Japan, for example, a pastor in Orlando, Fla., wrote to the Foreign Mission Board expressing appreciation for efforts "to make the

relationships between our missionaries and ourselves more personal."

A pastor in Staunton, Va., wrote, "We will be most happy to pray specifically . . . in our worship service and other meetings" for the missionary in Burkina Faso in west Africa who had written to the church.

A missionary in Argentina has received three positive replies. "Each . . . has expressed a genuine desire to pray for us and our work here," she

(Continued on page 5)

Carey College parcel sold for \$1 million

GULFPORT—The William Carey College board of trustees in its quarterly meeting here approved the sale of 12 acres of college-owned land in Hattiesburg to Hattiesburg businessman R. S. (Dick) Thomson for \$1 million.

Half of the proceeds from the sale will be used to endow a professorship in the School of Business and half will go to endow a professorship in the art department.

The land, which borders 40th Avenue and is just behind University Mall in Hattiesburg, was given to the college in two parcels—in 1972 and 1976—by Sarah Gillespie of Hattiesburg. The property is zoned residential.

The sale of the land brings the

largest single addition to endowment in Carey's 79-year history.

An additional six acres adjacent to the property that was sold will be given to the college by Ms. Gillespie for use as a botany laboratory and nature center for the school's biology department.

The professorship in business will be named in honor of Thomson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Thomson Sr., and the art professorship will be named for Ms. Gillespie and her mother, Sallie Keith Gillespie.

The \$1 million raised from the sale of the land will count toward the Mississippi Baptist Convention's 40 million endowment campaign for the state's three Baptist colleges and Children's Village.



Yates



Harris



Kelly



Lloyd

Leaders reiterate

"Set aside Sunday, May 19 as day of prayer for SBC"

By Tim Nicholas

Charles Pickering, Laurel attorney and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has reiterated the need for prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pickering, who met recently with 22 of his fellow state presidents to request a day of prayer on May 19, said that "our problems can only be solved by God and we need to make prayer a high priority."

This year's SBC meeting in Dallas has been predicted to become a direct confrontation between groups of "inerrantists" who believe the convention is becoming too liberal, and "moderates" who believe that the convention's mission program will suffer because of the politicization of leadership roles in the convention. A focus has been on opposition to the reelection of Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, as president.

The Baptist Record phoned several denominational leaders in the state, asking for comments on the day of prayer. Earl Kelly, Gerald Harris, James Yates, and Ray Lloyd responded, all endorsing the prayer request, explaining what they will be praying to happen.

The state presidents made a threefold request for prayer. "We are convinced that only God can produce healing and reconciliation and solve

the problems that confront us. We urge all Southern Baptists to unite in fervent and continual prayer for our Convention. We call upon the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention to set aside Sunday, May 19, 1985, as a day of prayer for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, June 11-13, 1985, specifically praying for each other and ourselves: (1) that revival and spiritual awakening will break out among Southern Baptists; (2) that under the leadership of the Holy Spirit healing and reconciliation will take place; and (3) that Southern Baptists might effectively proclaim the gospel around the world to the glory of God."

Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, quoted James 5:15 which says that "the prayer of faith shall save the sick."

Said Kelly, "Our beloved denomination is very sick . . . sicker than I have ever known it in my lifetime. The attempts of humans to heal, to bring back the harmonious function of the body of Christ, have all failed up to this point."

He added, "My prayer for our convention in Dallas is that the presence of the Holy Spirit will be so alive in my heart and in the hearts of all men of good will, that the crisis will pass and the joy of health, life, and loving relationship may glow again in our midst."

Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial (Continued on page 9)



This group of girls and leaders from Pachuta and Stonewall Baptist Churches was representative of those attending the convention in Gulfport.



Marjean Patterson, right, presents a certification of appreciation to D. P. Smith for her work as Mississippi Acteens consultant. Miss Patterson is Mississippi WMU director; Miss Smith will be going shortly as a foreign missionary to Ivory Coast after language training.



Dot Sample speaks to the more than 1,300 girls who attended the first Mississippi Acteens convention of the 80s. Mrs. Sample is president of the national WMU.

Acteens hear Sample, Solomon in first convention of 80's

By Tim Nicholas

Dot Sample compared Christian growth as like a lobster which has to "take off its shell" . . . take a risk." Mrs. Sample was speaking to more than 1,300 Mississippi Acteens gathered at First Church, Gulfport for their first convention of the 1980s.

Mrs. Sample, president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, told the teenage girls that "Despite good intent, there is conflict and hurt in our relationship." She said that "a mature Acteen can know what her loving response is to be, no matter what the others' behavior is."

A part of growing, she said, is being "vulnerable enough to say I'm sorry in a relationship."

Another major speaker to the girls was Marti Solomon, national consultant for Acteens. Miss Solomon said that the popular song, "I want to know what love is," is "something the world is asking us." She said the line in the song points out the way the world wants to know: "I want you to show me." She said that showing love is the best way to tell about the love available through Christ.

Other features of the convention included a portion of the musical "Lottie D." starring Jenny McLemore, a staffer at First Church, Jackson, who sang the lead role; a series of small group conferences that told about missions, mission opportunities, and personal growth topics; and a Saturday afternoon balloon release, a music feature by students from the Perkinston campus of Gulf Coast

Junior College, and a lunch that never arrived.

D. P. Smith, state consultant for Acteens, told the assembled group that afternoon that the fast food restaurant which was supposed to deliver 1,350 lunches, was nearly two hours late and asked the girls if they would forego lunch and give the money to world hunger. They agreed and most missed lunch.

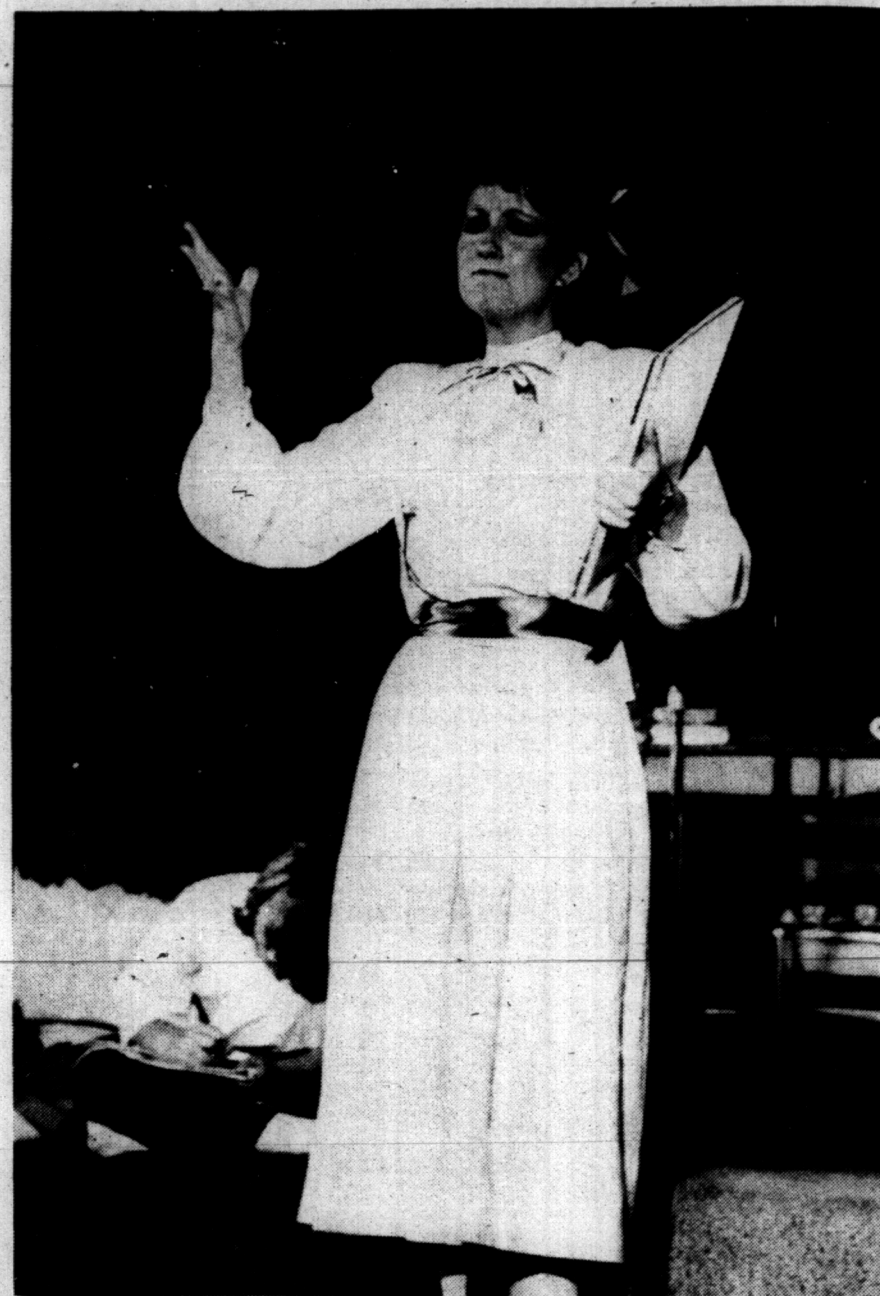
Facts paint frightening picture of teen drug abuse

Drug abuse by today's teenagers cuts across all demographic, economic and social lines. Some of the telling facts:

- 64 percent of All American young people try an illicit drug before high school graduation.
- Average beginning age of marijuana use is 13 years, alcohol is 12.5 years.
- 25 percent of children in 4th grade report they feel "some" to "a lot" of peer pressure to try alcohol or marijuana.
- More than 3 million teenagers are alcoholics; 3 out of 4 drink regularly and heavily.
- More than half of teenage deaths are the result of drugs or alcohol.

—"Get It Straight" Newsletter

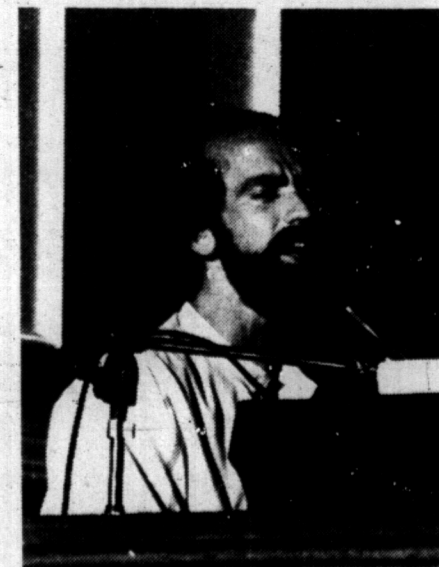
Ronald McDonald Childrens Charities



Jenny McLemore, a music staffer at First Church, Jackson, performed the role of Lottie Moon in the musical "Lottie D." on Saturday evening for the Acteens.



Sue McAllister, youth minister at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, was one of the small group conference leaders for the Acteens Convention. Mrs. McAllister spoke on "How to Find Mr. Right." Other leaders spoke on such topics as "How to Become a Missionary," and "Be A Mission Supporter."



Concert artist Don Wallace of Texas performed a concert for the Acteens convention.



Marti Solomon, national Acteens consultant for the Woman's Missionary Union, spoke to the girls on showing the world what love is.

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference

Dallas Convention Center

June 9-10, 1985

Theme: *Tracing the Rainbow Through the Rain*

June 9, 1985

Sunday Evening

- 6:30 — Special music
- 7:00 — Invocation and welcome
- 7:05 — Congregational music
- Special music
- 7:15 — Bill Weber, pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
- 7:40 — Congregational music
- 7:45 — Good News America — Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangelism, Home Mission Board, Atlanta
- 7:55 — Special music
- 8:00 — D. James Kennedy, senior minister, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- 8:35 — Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

June 10, 1985

Monday Morning

- 9:00 — Special music
- 9:15 — Invocation and congregational hymn
- 9:20 — David Walker, pastor, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas
- 9:45 — Congregational hymn and special music
- 10:00 — Jack Graham, pastor, First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.
- 10:25 — Special music
- 10:35 — Tom Elliff, pastor, Applewood Baptist Church, Denver
- 11:00 — Congregational singing and offering
- Special music
- 11:15 — Arthur Blessitt, evangelist, Hollywood, Calif.

June 10, 1985

Monday Afternoon

- 1:15 — Special music
- 1:30 — Invocation and congregational singing
- 1:35 — Morris Chapman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 2:00 — Congregational singing
- 2:10 — Edwin Young, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 2:35 — Congregational hymn and offering
- Special Music
- 2:50 — Election of officers
- 3:05 — Special music
- 3:10 — John Wood, pastor, First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas
- 3:35 — Congregational hymn and special music
- 3:45 — Jack R. Taylor, Dimensions in Christian Living, Fort Worth, Texas

June 10, 1985

Monday Evening

- 6:30 — Special music
- 7:00 — Invocation and congregational hymn
- 7:05 — Special Music
- 7:10 — Richard Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 7:35 — Congregational hymn and special music
- 7:45 — Welcome to the Southern Baptist Convention, Charles Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 7:55 — Special music
- 8:00 — R. T. Kendall, senior minister, Westminster Chapel, London, England
- 8:25 — Congregational hymn and offering
- Special music
- 8:35 — W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas

Pastors' Conference officers: O. S. Hawkins, president, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Robert Tenery, vice-president, Morganton, N.C.; Calvin Miller, secretary, Omaha, Neb.; Tom Melzoni Sr., treasurer, Dayton, Ohio.

Paul Jones will address campus ministers, '85

DALLAS (BP) — The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers will hold its annual meeting June 9-10 at the Red Bird Inn Best Western in Dallas, immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

There will be five sessions spread over one-and-a-half days examining the theme, "Heritage, Development and Update: Our Convention . . . Our Faith . . . Our Work."

Session I on Sunday evening will feature Phil Briggs, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, speaking on "Faith Development in Ministry." Walter Shurden, professor of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will address "Roots of Our Diversity" in the Sunday night session.

Monday morning will include two sessions: Jesse C. Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, on "Care and Maintenance of the Campus Minister's Life," and Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, on

Mississippian on SBC WMU program

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Norma Mackey of Waynesboro will participate in the 1985 Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting June 9-10 in Dallas.



Mackey

All sessions will be held at the Convention Center Arena and are open to the public.

Mackey will speak on "Missions and Proclamation" at the Monday morning general session at the Annual Meeting.

Thursday, May 16, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Missionary letters foster churches' prayer support

(Continued from page 3)

wrote Walker. "All have requested pictures of our family plus biographical data.

"One church wants to include a page of pictures of us and examples of our ministry in the 90th anniversary edition of their church directory. One of the churches is very small and has never been related to a missionary in any way."

The missionary hopes churches will "get to know a missionary as a 'real' human being" and their heightened prayer support will bolster Southern

Baptist Bold Mission Thrust efforts to share the gospel globally by the year 2000.

One small hitch to the letter-writing program involves the mail, Walker says. "We're never sure all our letters get overseas and we're certainly not sure that all the missionaries send from overseas gets here."

The missionaries' letters involve only prayer support, since Southern Baptist churches already provide financial support through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

Witness in Argentina

(Continued from page 2)

witness as needed. The Rio Gallegos church had 32 members, and there were 31 professions of faith. A great deal of the success of that effort must be laid at the feet of James O'Brien.

During the week I decided to make a trip to Rio Grande in the Tierra del Fuego, where Paul Harrell, Mississippian Baptist Brotherhood director, and Milton Koon, pastor of Gaston Church, Booneville, were working. James O'Brien dropped everything and went with me, and I would have been completely lost without him. He could ask questions when I wouldn't even have known there was a problem.

The only way to get to Rio Grande is to fly to Ushuaia, which is the southernmost town in the world. So, indeed, James and I went "to the ends of the earth" that day. On Sunday Paul and Milton flew to Ushuaia to conduct a revival service. It is a beautiful area of snow-covered mountains. The Tierra del Fuego is separated from the mainland by the Straits of Magellan.

Raul Ramos is the articulate and capable pastor of the Rio Gallegos church.

Dinner was a particularly memorable meal, for it never got under way until about midnight. The people go to work about 8 a.m. and go home to lunch at noon. After lunch until 4 p.m. is reserved for siesta time, and then they return to work until 8 p.m. Church services begin about 9 o'clock, but they are not limited to one hour. Then there is always an extended period of fellowship at the church following the service. The food was

delicious, and the people were delightful hosts. Drinking coffee at 1:30 a.m., however, had to be tempered with wisdom.

We lost the services of Toby Walker of Oklahoma after the first week due to the illness of both his parents and were joined for the second week by David Vick of Arkansas.

In Godoy Cruz our hosts were Coco and Charita Ezcurra and their six delightful children. Coco has been a Christian only three years and said he never dreamed he would have the opportunity of having visitors from the U.S. in his home.

We quickly made friends also with the Aranda family. This family had been members of the Oeste (West) Church in Mendoza for 10 years and had been influenced by the pastorates of missionary Mell Plunk and my friend Patricio Lucero before they

moved to Bella Vista about a year ago and transferred their enthusiasm, dedication, and knowledge to the smaller church. They quickly became pillars at Bella Vista. Also transferring with them was Diego Molina, a very able young man, for he is the husband of one of the daughters, Silvia; and she made a decision for special service during the revival. She is a lovely and talented person.

Another daughter, Mirtha, is the primary accompanist for the church, using a guitar, for the church has no musical instrument.

Special service is not a foreign concept in the Aranda household. Another daughter, Margarita, is in the seminary now; and I made a trip out there from downtown to meet her. She is as genuine as the remainder of the

(Continued on page 10)

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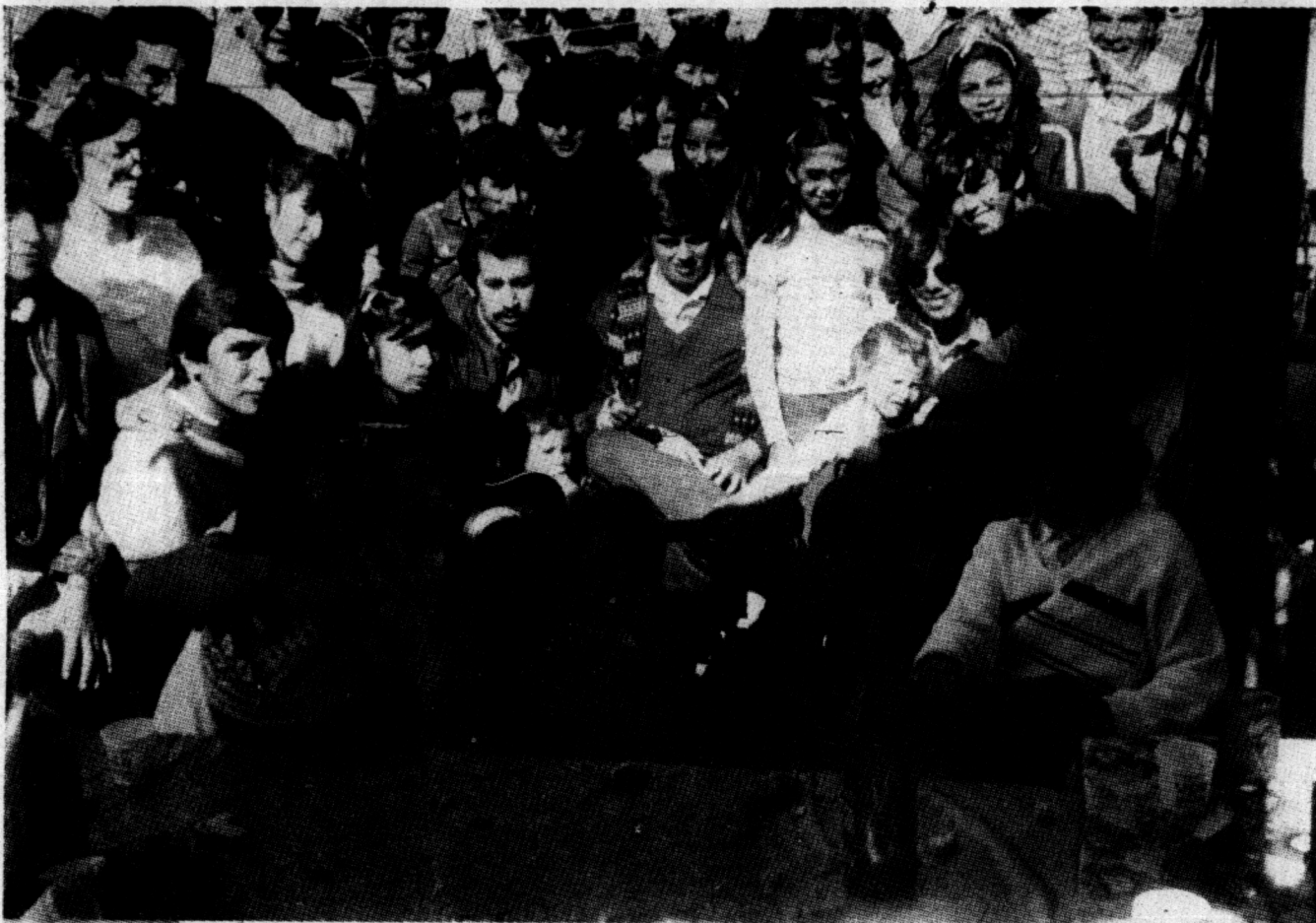
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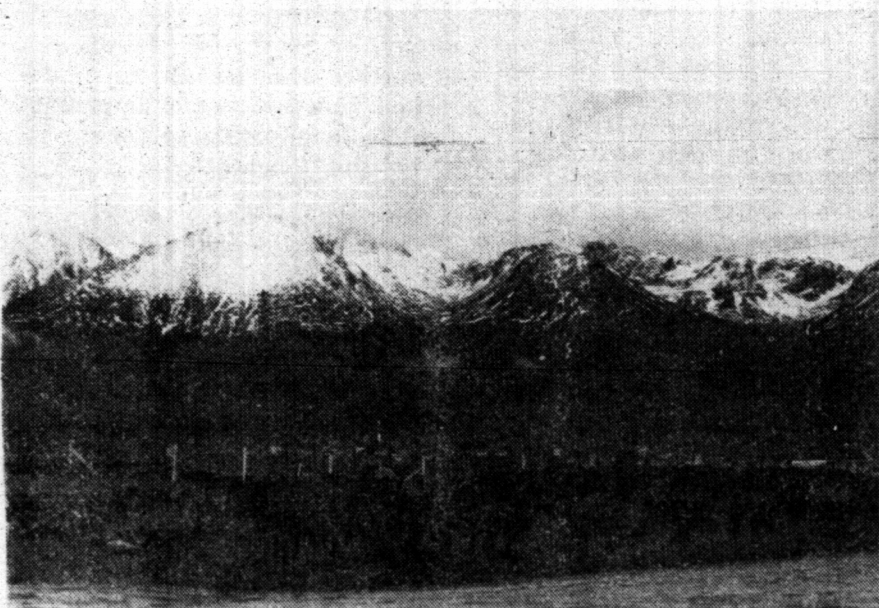


The young people of Bella Vista Church gather following a picnic on Sunday to compose limericks and sing choruses.

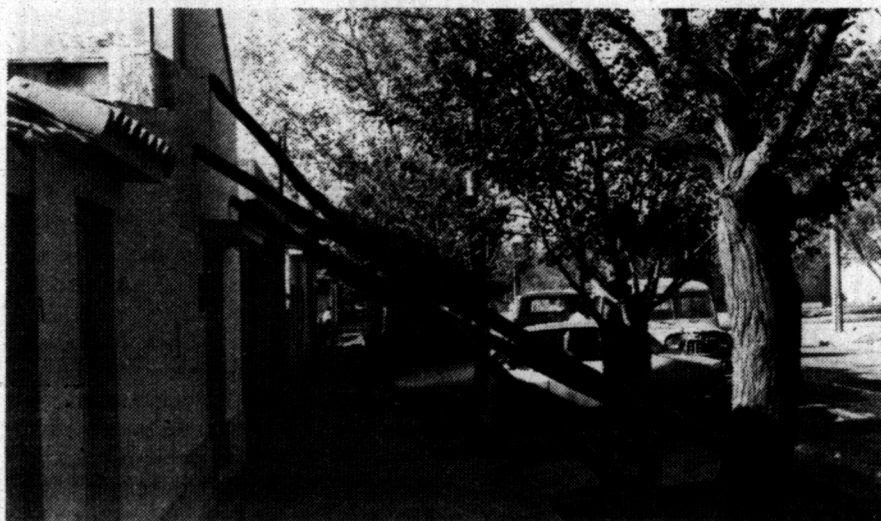


Ever ready to perform, the talented Diego Molina plays his guitar and sings in a Catholic home during a meal following a revival service. Silvia Molina sits beside him. The team and the Molinas were invited into the home because one of the family members, Isabel Garro, is a member of the Baptist church. She sits at right across from Molina.

Mississippians go to "ends of the earth"



Mississippi Baptists visited the "ends of the earth" as the editor, Milton Koon, and Paul Harrell visited Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost town in the world. Koon and Harrell conducted services there on Sunday morning. The editor stopped there briefly on Friday on his way to Rio Grande.



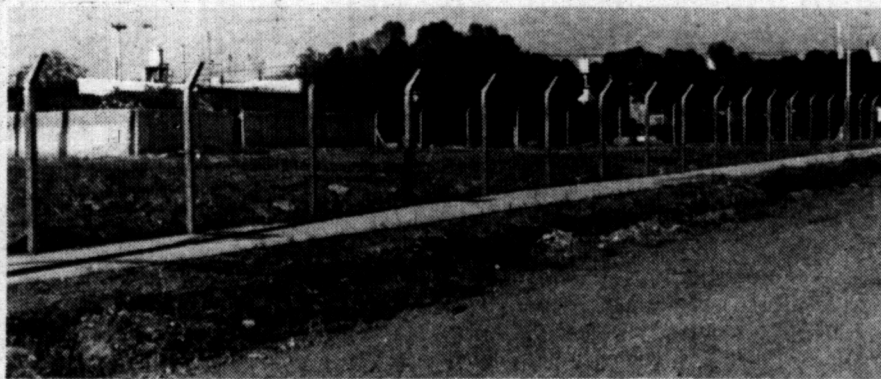
An earthquake on Jan. 26 left the Bella Vista Church in Godoy Cruz in a condemned condition. Members are not allowed to meet there. On the outside poles hold up the front wall to keep it from falling outward.



Bella Vista pastor Armando Zavala left, welcomes Mississippi evangelist Jesse McMillan to the church.



The recently completed communications building at the seminary houses music and sound facilities. The Mississippi group waits outside the building for transportation back to downtown Buenos Aires, where their hotel is located.



Bella Vista Church in Godoy Cruz is hoping to buy this plot of ground for \$30,000 to construct a new building. While the church has plans drawn for a building to replace the one destroyed by the earthquake, there is no money with which to buy the lot or to build.



Pastor Ignacio P. Gariglio of the Rio Grande Church and his wife stand outside their home. In 1981, as the partnership endeavor was being formed, the editor took a picture of the Gariglios when he was a pastor in Bahia Blanca, Argentina. That picture also was printed. About six hours after this picture was taken, Mrs. Gariglio died of a cerebral hemorrhage. She was preparing to visit a daughter in Comodoro Rivadavia at the time of her death.



At Rio Grande a member sings a song he wrote.

Argentina-Uruguay crusades

(Continued from page 3)

visit to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world, to hold services there. Both Rio Grande and Ushuaia are located on the Tierra del Fuego, an island group that is separated from mainland Argentina by the straits of Magellan. Tierra del Fuego is not a part of a province of Argentina but is a territory. Argentina shares the islands with Chile.

On the way home from Argentina and Uruguay, both groups were slowed momentarily by a strike by the Brazilian airlines. The Argentina group was stopped in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and had to spend one night there before being flown to Rio de Janeiro the next day by a crew dressed in civilian clothes rather than in company uniforms. Being a day late put the Argentina group in Rio on the same day that the Uruguay group arrived, making a total of 76 Baptists seeking to get back home. The two scheduled to leave Brazil separately, finally managed to all get on a Venezuelan airliner bound for Caracas, Venezuela, and Miami.

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director for Mississippi Baptists, led the group to Argentina. The Uruguay leader was Chester Vaughn, program director, for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Guy Henderson, Convention Board evangelism director, is leading the group now in Argentina; and Dan Hall, director of the Church Music Department, will lead the group in June.



While the Rio Gallegos church had a small portable electric organ, guitars are a popular means of music accompaniment.



At Rio Gallegos, site of his first revival, Jesse McMillan of McAdams Church in Attala Association visits with Marisa Opozso in the Opozso home, where the team stayed. Other team members were Don McGregor, Baptist Record editor, and Toby Walker, missionary to Argentina, translator. At right is James O'Brien, who is from Denver, Colo., and is a member of the church at Rio Gallegos. He is bi-lingual and served during the week as a translator for McMillan for witnessing in homes. McGregor worked with Walker.



Pastor Raul Ramos, back row, center, gathers with some of his flock to examine a cake baked for a covered dish dinner following the Sunday service at the church at Rio Gallegos. Because the members didn't work on Sunday, services began at 7 p.m. The message on the cake is from Psalm 75:1.



Fellowship is always a big item in the Argentine churches, even though it may follow a service lasting until 11 p.m. Visiting with a group at the church in Rio Grande are Paul Harrell, state Brotherhood director, left, and Milton Koon, pastor of Gaston Church, Booneville, standing at center.



Daniel Tinao, second from left, is president of the seminary at Buenos Aires, Argentina. He visits with the evangelists from Mississippi. At left is Stanley Clark, who is academic dean at the seminary.



Ronnie Reynolds, right, translates for Paul Harrell, left, Mississippi Brotherhood director, as he witnesses to two men in a home in Rio Grande.



Mirtha Aranda accompanies the Bella Vista congregation on her guitar during the welcoming service for Mississippians Don McGregor and Jesse McMillan in the yard of the home of one of the members.



Nancy Ezcurra picks grapes in the courtyard of her home in Godoy Cruz, a suburb of Mendoza. The Ezcurra family served as hosts for the team at Bella Vista Church in Godoy Cruz. The Rio Gallegos team moved to Godoy Cruz with the exception that Missionary David Vick replaced Toby Walker as translator. Walker was called to his home in Oklahoma due to the illness of both of his parents.

Med-dental group elects Terry Bailey

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship met at First Church, Jackson, May 2, with 150 physicians and dentists and their spouses, students, interns, and residents in attendance. Lee Cope, president of the local chapter for 1984-85, presided over the evening banquet and program.

After the meal, Cope introduced Henry Love, director of the National Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship; Jack Beckett, president of the National Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship; and William Gaventa, director of Medical Services Department of the Foreign Mission Board. Following a brief summary of their

responsibilities to the Medical Dental Fellowship, a short business session was conducted. The new president for the 1985-86 year was presented — Terry Bailey of Canton.

After special music from the ladies on staff in the music department of First Church, Jackson, a career mission field report was brought by Ben Nash, medical missionary to Ghana, and a short-term mission field report was brought by Bill Boteler, a Jackson dentist who donated his services in Honduras.

Rick Goodgame, missionary doctor to Kampala, Uganda, brought the message for the evening. He touched on areas of ministry which he experienced while serving as a Foreign Mission Board representative on staff at the Mulago Hospital of Makerere University in Kampala. He issued a challenge to all doctors — physicians and dentists — to be a missionary in their own practices.

Any physician or dentist interested in any short-term or career mission project, or would like to join or know more about the Mississippi Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship, may do so by calling the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800 or by writing to: Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

19th Avenue gave \$2,630.95

The report on Lottie Moon Offering published in the Baptist Record, April 25, showed a contribution of \$35.00 from Nineteenth Avenue Church, Hattiesburg.

Because of a posting survey error, this is not correct, reports Fran Pickett, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. The amount given to the Lottie Moon Offering by this church is \$2,630.95.



No. 2 in a series of 10

Roots — not rallies

A long drought strangles the earth. Cattle bawl for water that's not there. Crops die in the fields. The sun beats mercilessly. Big cracks fissure the land. Clouds flee the horizon. Leaves dry up and fall as if it were October. Temperatures climb to new records. Birds long since disappeared. Animal life is non-existent. Hot winds scorch the air. Wells dry up. Ponds and lakes disappear. Creeks trickle to a standstill.

But wait! One river still flows, however languidly. And on its bank a giant tree flourishes, its leaves green, its fruit abundant. Why? Because years ago, it put down deep roots that reach beneath the riverbed. With such a root system, it taps water and lives while all else dies.

Psalms 1:1 boast that a godly man is also "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season." The picture is clear: we stand tall during adversity if our spiritual roots are deep. But shallow roots mean stunted lives. To grow tall, we must be planted deeply.

Planned Growth in Giving, a Southern Baptist emphasis that lasts from 1985 to 2,000 A.D., is a "root" kind of appeal. It senses that although budget drives may reach their dollar goals, they can, if shallow, miss the root goals. That's why Planned Growth is so unique. It takes the long look. It starts with a seedbed not a rally. Its deep roots tunnel under the river. Its benefits are lasting. Don't let your church miss it. Your state stewardship director, John Alexander, has more details.

PLANNED GROWTH IN GIVING

"More than a slogan — bigger than a program"

Parchman, Jackson to host prison meets

Two conferences concerning ministries to those in prison and to their families are set for May 17-18 at Parchman, and May 25 in Jackson. The Jackson meeting is scheduled to hear an address by Gov. Bill Allain. Both meetings have the theme "His Hand Extended."

The Parchman meeting will take place at the Baptist Equipping Center near the penitentiary and will equip volunteers to work with the prison chaplains. The training sessions are planned by Ovis Fairley of the Parchman Prison Ministry and by Ron Padgett and his staff of chaplains at the penitentiary.

The Parchman meeting begins at 9:30 a.m., on May 17, and concludes after lunch the next day.

The Jackson meeting will take place at Galloway United Methodist Church and is planned by the Christian Jail Service Chaplain, Bruce Morgan, Prison Fellowship's Bert Everitt, and Don Leo, and by Mississippi Jail and Prison Ministry Association's president John McBride. McBride is director of the Department of Cooperative Missions for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Governor Bill Allain will speak to the conference at 9 a.m. where his "Second Chance" program of prisoner adoption will be presented.

George Meyer, former driver of gangster Al Capone, will speak at 12:45. And Bruce Morgan will present prison ministry work in the Greater Jackson area.

A Ministries Fair will be held from 1:30 to 2:45 with all organized Christian jail and prison ministries welcomed to exhibit their work.

For details on either conference, contact Jean Hastings, secretary in the Cooperative Missions office at 968-3800.

HMB commissions 74 missionaries

ATLANTA (BP) — Seventy-four newly commissioned home missionaries were told they needed an uncommon commitment, unique cooperation and an unusual power source to accomplish Bold Mission Thrust, the common purpose of the 14.3-million member Southern Baptist denomination.

Roswell Baptist Church hosted the commissioning service for the missionaries representing 20 states and Cuba.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer.

Principle overlooked

Editor:

It seems that a very important Baptist principle has been overlooked by the Baptist press, the agency and institutional heads, and the "denominational loyalists" in their campaign to prevent the re-election of Charles Stanley—volunteerism.

A prominent "moderate" SBC pastor is quoted in Christianity Today of August 5, 1983, as saying a denominational teacher who might be led by Scripture not to believe in the Virgin Birth should not be fired, adding, "It is in two Gospels, but not in two others. Did Mark and John make a mistake by forgetting to list it? If the Virgin Birth is desperately important, (they) must have erred." The leadership role of this brother in "moderate" circles is indicated by the fact that the same issue of Christianity Today relates that he wrote to the SBC agency heads prior to the Pittsburg convention at the request of the moderates' steering committee, and by the fact that he is scheduled to speak at the Forum in Dallas.

Assuming that his brother was only using the Virgin Birth hypothetically, nevertheless, his point that the "soul liberty" of the seminary professor or denomination employee is superior to the "soul liberty" of the individual tither, mirrors the view being expressed in the denominational press in the hysterical attacks on

Charles Stanley and their equally hysterical support for the Cooperative Program.

Our Cooperative Program has produced marvelous results, and I support it as do all other conservatives that I know. It will continue to serve our needs as long as our agency and institutional heads recognize that the Cooperative Program is based upon voluntary contributions.

The attitude expressed by some "loyalists" seems more in keeping with an established church, whether one supported by state imposed taxes or established in the sense that the church hierarchy decides how the tithe is spent, with no right of individual designation. Which is paramount, the secular right of tenure or the Biblical duty of each individual to seek God's will in exercising his stewardship?

Carl D. Ford
Laurel

Anniversary at Daniel

Editor:

This year (July 7-14) marks the 50th anniversary of Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson. We are seeking help in locating all former staff members and members who have gone into full-time church related services. If anyone can help us with this information, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Senie Fortenberry
Chairperson of
Anniversary Committee
Daniel Memorial Church
3784 Terry Road
Jackson

Preaching idolators

Editor:

Issues of the Baptist Record over the past several months rival and possibly surpass the Sunday comics. Graduates of the seminaries are sitting back, championing at the bit, just waiting to be called so they can set the world on fire. Supposed-to-be-pastors write in to say it's not necessary to know that the Bible is the inerrant word of God. (In the Garden of Eden, Satan started this trend by asking "yea, did God say?") Ever since, someone at any given time has been trying to cast doubt on what God said. Every time a new, so-called Bible tumbles off the press, Satan and his demons rejoice because they know more doubt and confusion is going to be the result. Pseudo pastors write in urging undesignated contributions be sent to the Cooperative Program. Does anyone really believe the Holy Ghost is guiding only at that level? Has the Biblical concept of the priesthood of the believer been replaced by something better from Mammon? What happened to the epistle of the Apostle Paul to a local church stating that it was the body of Christ? Has man written this out of God's word?

Do the seminaries realize they're flooding the country with an oversupply of the degreed, spiritual midgets who perceive the local church to be a stepping stone, an opportunity to display their organizational and administrative genius? If they discern the local church as the body of Christ, then they join Saul of Tarsus in persecuting it. Oh, would

that they might meet Jesus on their Road to Damascus!! These people claim to be called to preach, but do just about everything but! They can come into a church that's strong in the spirit, supporting where support is needed, loving where Christ would love, and rip it apart in the name of denominational servitude. Some of these people are such puppets of the denomination that they're actually practicing idolators—serving the denomination rather than God! How tragic! Revelation pleads for a return to the first love, and that's what we'd better do, throughout this denomination, else we cannot serve the Master.

Vandey V. Yates
Saucier

A wise husband buys his wife such expensive china that she won't trust him to wash the dishes. — The Baldwin (Miss.) News



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"Set aside May 19 as day of prayer"

(Continued from page 3)
Heights Church, Jackson, and one spokesman for the inerrantist faction in Mississippi, said he believes the prayer day suggestion is excellent. "I don't think any of the problems of our convention are going to be solved politically, but spiritually. I think one of the things that can happen in Dallas is a revival will break out. I think revivals are generally borne out of a spirit of desperation and I think a lot of people are despairing over what is happening in our convention."

Harris said that the prayer needs to be "simply that God's will be done. I don't think that's a cop-out because Jesus prayed that."

James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, and immediate past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said he was "enthusiastically supportive of the idea" for a day of prayer. "I'm praying for healing—that we will all get together in the task of Bold Mission Thrust, that God will just take charge of our convention and bring harmony so we can work together again, and the spirit of divisiveness will disappear."

Ray Lloyd, pastor of First Church, Starkville, and one of the spokesmen

among the moderates in the state, said he believes that prayer is the only hope at this point for the denomination.

Lloyd said that "sometimes the Lord expects to be the answer to our own prayers... we need to have our heart in our prayer—to the extent that what we ask God to do, we be willing to do ourselves."

"Concerning the prayer itself, Lloyd said I think, he (God) meant for us to get as specific as we want him to get. My prayer is not just 'Lord bless our denomination and keep us from dividing' but 'Lord help us get our hearts right so we can continue the mission you have given us.'"

Union to divest

NEW YORK (RNS) — The board of directors of Union Theological Seminary, has voted to divest itself of holdings in companies with "major direct involvement" in South Africa.

The directors gave their investment committee the task of defining what actually constitutes the transacting of business with South Africa, as well as the job of deciding on a schedule for divestment.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Alabama roots

County Line Baptist Church, East Liberty Association, Alabama, celebrated its 150th anniversary on May 5. Not only did my sister and I grow up in that church. So did our parents, Emmett and Johnnie Lou Washburn. All four of our grandparents (John S. and Zalemmah Allen and Lavonia and Albert Washburn) were members there nearly all their lives. Six of our eight grandparents (Allens, Langleys, Talbots) were longtime members there.

Of twelve who organized the church May 2, 1835, two were Green and Mary Talbot. Since two of my great-grandmothers were Talbots (they were sisters), I feel sure that Green and Mary are on my family tree somewhere.

The charter members built a church on a hill above a creek on land bought from the Creek Indians. It was a mile from the village of Dudleyville and Peter Dudley's trading post, and near the line between Chambers and Tallapoosa counties in east central Alabama. After 150 years, it still occupies a spot of solitude, surrounded by woods.

The present building went up in 1890 and the sanctuary remains almost totally unchanged. Antique chandeliers once held kerosene lamps; I remember them well. They could be raised and lowered for filling and lighting the lamps. Electric lights were installed in the chandeliers about 1940. The antique pulpit chairs have tall ornate backs. Their black leather upholstery has been changed to maroon velvet. The original hand hewn heart pine (highly uncomfortable) pews are the same ones installed in 1890—or before. In 1983, this building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In spite of invasion by honey bees and wasps—and once, I understand, by skunks—the sanctuary has been well kept. It is amazing that the plaster has never had to be replaced. I remember well that my daddy painted the 15-foot high walls in 1965 for \$50.00, as a labor of love.

On May 5, this year, the program was an all-day one, with dinner on the grounds. It was fun to see lots of relatives and old friends—and a relief to realize that some of them are even more grey than I. Betty and Mama prepared a basket of lunch. I cooked a banana pudding, because that's W.D.'s favorite dessert. Bubba and Luann met us at the church.

A former pastor, Rayford Duck, preached at the 11 a.m. service. He has been pastor in Mississippi also, and is now pastor of Damascus Church, Graceville, Fla. He and I were in junior high together at Ridge Grove. Jimmy Allen, pastor at Cusseta, Ala. (another County Line cousin) and his wife, Martha, presented special music. Vivian Langley played the organ and Eldridge Dabbs the piano.

One of the visitors present was Judson Jones, the minister who was evangelist for County Line's summer revival in 1938, when I at age nine publicly professed faith in Christ as

my savior. His brother, L. M. Jones, our pastor then, baptized me the following Sunday night.

The present pastor, James C. Johnston, had written a 120-page history of the church. It is a wonderful buy for \$5. Leafing quickly through it I found an essay written by my Grandmother Allen when she was 18. I saw that my Grandmother Washburn was organist in 1899 and my sister, Betty, was pianist in the 40s.

When this church reached 100, I was 6. I could in no way measure how dear its people have been and are to me and how much influence they have had on my life. Some of the dearest memories of that place are of seeing Daddy ordained as a deacon, and seeing him at the front as Sunday School director, or in a Christmas pageant dressed as a shepherd in a bathrobe. He was Sunday School teacher, clerk, treasurer, often chairman of the Pulpit Committee. Betty said, "My best memory of this church is seeing my little old daddy holding out his hand to me when I stepped out of the baptismal pool."

County Line was the first (in 1881) in East Liberty Association to organize a Woman's Missionary Union, and the first to send a mission offering to the association. Mama was my first Sunbeam leader. Her interest in missionary education first awakened in me the intense interest in missions that has never decreased. Her faithfulness in WMU during many years as its president, and in, I guess, all of its offices, has been an inspiration to me. From the time we were born, Mama and Daddy always carried Betty and me to church. Mama taught children in Sunday School and now teaches adults. For a long time we didn't have a car, but someone was always nice enough to stop and offer us a ride.

I remember just where I sat the first time I took part in the Lord's Supper. I was near the big old striking clock that hung on the west wall. It has since been stolen. The afternoon sun (we had preaching on second Sunday afternoon then) shone through the windows, and all was hushed and still. I felt that God was in that place.

In winter days of the 30s and 40s, we nearly froze in our "back corner" Sunday School classes. The only heat would be in the wood heaters near the front, so we would wish for spring and a chance to study outside in cars.

During World War II, I was in high school. Because of gas rationing, we didn't have Sunday night preaching. Then County Line's TU not only helped us to learn to speak in public, but also provided our few social activities. We would meet in homes on Sunday nights because the church was far away from the central part of the community.

A hand painted motto—no one knows how old—has "always" hung at the front of the church. It expresses well the reason for the organization of the church and the reason for holding a sesqui-centennial celebration—"Lord, help us, thou art our only hope for life and salvation."

Former pastors to speak at Daniel's 50th

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson.

The church will celebrate July 7-14. All former pastors will attend and be on program.

The agenda includes: Sunday, July 7, 11 a.m.—R. E. McPheeters, the organizing pastor and Glen Thomas Williams; 7 p.m.—Bill Townsend.

July 8, 7 p.m.—Dennis Smith; July 9, 7 p.m.—Gary White; July 10, 7 p.m.—concert—Cindy Malone and other young ladies from Daniel in full-time church related service.

July 11, 7 p.m.—Lewis E. Rhodes—former pastor; July 12, 7 p.m.—Allen O. Webb—former pastor; July 13, 7 p.m.—Wayne E. Todd—former pastor; July 14, 11 a.m.—Byron R. Malone—pastor.

Service conclude with a free lunch and note-burning ceremony, July 14. There will be a fellowship period following each nightly service.

The hardest tumble a man can make is to fall over his own bluff. — Ambrose Bierce

God gave us memories so that we might have roses in December. — James M. Barrie

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Homecomings

Emmanuel, Jackson: homecoming, May 19; 10:30 a.m.; J. H. Royalty, Hattiesburg, first pastor, speaker; The Deacon Quartet from McDowell Road Church, special music; lunch at church; Frank Mixon, pastor; Reed Womble, music director.

Arrowood, Meridian: homecoming, May 19; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds, noon; dedication of new sound system, 1:15 p.m.; gospel singing, 1:30 p.m.; activities for the day will center around the theme, "The Old Fashioned Christian Home"; Robert Mooney, pastor.

Temple (Hinds-Madison): homecoming, May 19; Mike Pennock, morning speaker at 10:45 a.m.; Wayne Crenshaw, afternoon speaker and note burning ceremony at 1:30.

Phalti, Prentiss: homecoming; May 19; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Reid Polk, guest speaker; Steve Parish, special music; meal served at noon with Note Burning Service and special music in the afternoon.

Bluff Springs (Kemper): 100th anniversary and memorial service, May 19; several former pastors will be present; message, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds, noon; photos, mementos connected with church history will be on display, Clarence Qualls, pastor.

North Greenwood, Greenwood: 30th anniversary and homecoming; Sunday, May 19; covered dish dinner and "all day singing."

First Southern Baptist, Victoria: homecoming; May 19; dinner after service and singing by the Kings' Daughters; Joe Nunley pastor.

Mount Horeb (Lauderdale): founded in 1848; homecoming day, May 19; beginning at 9:45 a.m.; old-fashioned singing and dinner in Fellowship Hall; Thomas Broadhead, a native of Lauderdale County, and 1985 graduate of New Orleans Seminary, speaker; Jerry Sanford, pastor; Mark Jones, minister of music.

Union, (Rankin): homecoming; May 19; services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch will be served and afternoon singing; S. W. Valentine, guest speaker; Vernell Daniels, pastor.

Emmanuel, Grenada: May 19; senior citizen recognition and homecoming; a cantata in honor of senior adults entitled "By My Spirit" during morning service; noon, dinner on ground; afternoon, special music, and reading of church history; first homecoming in the history of the church, which was established in 1951; William M. Waddle, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Clarke): homecoming, May 19; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner on ground; no night service; Ferrell Morris, pastor.

Chapparral (Wayne): May 19; Harold Anderson, Brookhaven, former pator, speaker at 11 a.m. service; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; lunch at the church; singing in the afternoon; Jimmy McDill, pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

May 20-26 Associational Emphasis Week (HMB Emphasis)

Music publishers reading session set for Jackson

A "Meet the Publishers and their Music" session will be sponsored May 24 by the Baptist Book Store in Jackson, according to Charles McGlocklin, manager.



Johnson

The session will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. with a break for lunch. It will be held at Briarwood Drive Church in

Jackson, and lunch will be served there. The first hour will be taken up with registration and coffee, and there will be a Book Store exhibit available, McGlocklin said.

The first reading session will begin at 9 a.m. and last until noon. There will be another reading session from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., and a recap will close out the activities.

Accompaniment will be Dot Pray, keyboard specialist for the Church Music Department of the Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board.

Publishers' representatives who will be present will be Jim Van Hook with Brentwood, John Purifoy with Purifoy/Johnson, Jerry Brown with Broadman, Derric Johnson with Zondervon, and John F. Wilson with Hope.

Also present will be Mike Smith, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson, with Message Music Publishing Company, which is a Jackson publishing firm. Irene Martin, one of partners in the firm and

pianist at First Church, Richland, will accompany Smith.

A \$25 registration fee will include the lunch and all the music for the event, McGlocklin noted.

Those who are interested in attending may register by sending name, address, telephone number, and church represented along with the \$25 registration fee to Charles McGlocklin, manager, Baptist Book Store, Westland Plaza, 965 Ellis Avenue, Jackson, Miss. 39209.

Southern alumni to gather in Dallas

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Alumni and friends of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will meet at a national luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Tex., at 1 p.m., Wednesday, June 13.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$12.50 if postmarked before May 20, or \$16 at the seminary's convention exhibit. For tickets, send payment and a self-addressed envelope to: Alumni Reunion Tickets, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

Just for the Record

Highland, Laurel, began renovating its educational buildings on May 2. Provisions are being made for a children's wing, new kitchen, and a multi-purpose fellowship hall. Sunday School capacity will be increased by over 150. Total cost of the project is \$180,000, and should be completed by August. James Merritt is pastor and Leslie Williams is minister of education and administration.

The goal for Home Missions in the Clarke Association was \$17,661.00 for 1985. This goal was based on \$3.00 per person average for 5,887 members. Last year \$15,657.40 was given to Home Missions. This year \$19,170.00 was given to Home Missions. All 29 churches have given to this cause.

GAs at Clarke-Venable, Decatur, have achieved distinguished recognition. Their total enrollment was 17 in October and is now 38. GA leaders are Janie McMullan (4th, 5th, and 6th) and Sue Rives (1st, 2nd, and 3rd). WMU Director is Jean Thrash.

Mrs. John H. Napier, Jr., was honored at First Church, Picayune, by receiving a certificate in recognition for her many years of faithful service. May 1 marked her 90th birthday. She has been active in Sunday School by playing the organ and teaching a ladies' class in the Adult V Department. Raymon Leake is pastor.

Correction

In nominations by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees, Rick Lance of First Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., was nominated in place of Al Finch of First Baptist Church, Prattville, Ala., on the Foreign Mission Board. Finch has moved to First Church, Greenwood, Miss. The Baptist Press report of the Foreign Mission Board nominations was printed in the April 25 issue of the Baptist Record.

Also D. W. Green, pastor of Edwards Church in Edwards, was listed with the Committee on Committees as William Green. Green was one of two Mississippians named by SBC President Charles Stanley as members of the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees is an appointed body and nominates for convention approval names for the Committee on Board Nominations.



FIRST, BILOXI recently held RA Welcoming and Awards Ceremony. All boys received membership pins. Tom Wiley was the only boy who completed the requirements for an award. He is pictured receiving his Lad 3 pin along with a 3-starred bar for extra electives completed. Presenting the award are (L to R), Frank Gunn, pastor; RA director, Johnny Martin; and RA leader, Dave York.



SUNRISE, HATTIESBURG, held official ground breaking service for the new sanctuary and educational facilities Sunday, March 10. Pictured, (l to r), Ray Allen, pastor, Frank Payne, chairman of building committee, Mrs. Bonnie Davis, member for the most years present that Sunday, and Robert Hegwood, chairman of deacons, with the shovels. In the background are some of the members present for this occasion. The actual construction has begun for these new facilities. The fund raising committee are Robert Hegwood, chairman, Eddie Webster, Chafotte Berry, D. W. Averett, and Mrs. W. E. Plant. The Building Committee members for this project are Frank Payne, chairman, J. S. "Sankie" McLeod, Eddie Webster, Mary McGilvray, and Clara Dunagin.

Witness in Argentina

(Continued from page 5) family. And another daughter is already out of the seminary and is serving as a missionary in the Chaco Province.

There is more to be told of witnessing victories in Godoy Cruz and of problems facing the church because of being left without a building by an earthquake in January. The story will continue next week. The dedicated

and determined pastor at Bella Vista is Armando Zavala, who also teaches in an institute. The bi-vocational nature of his work allows the church to have a ministry that would not be possible otherwise. There were 29 professions of faith at Bella Vista in spite of the fact that there were no cars and only one translator. The people paved the way and made the witnessing easy.

Yale Street pastor to receive doctorate

William L. Jenkins, Jr., pastor of Yale Street Church, Cleveland, will receive the doctor of ministry degree at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Ga., on June 2. He previously earned the bachelor of science in education degree at Delta State University and master of divinity degree at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He conducted part of his doctoral studies at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Jenkins has served pastorates in Mississippi, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Georgia. He is pastor advisor for Baptist Student Union and hosts a weekly Bible study program on Cleveland's ACTS cable channel.

Seminary adds to music hall

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—A \$1.1 million addition to V. V. Cooke Hall, home of the School of Church Music at Southern Seminary, was recently dedicated in a special ceremony here.

The building project, begun last summer, adds an additional 12,100 square feet in floor space for an instrumental recital hall, a choral recital hall, five teaching studios and 10 practice rooms.

Revival Dates

Sturgis, Sturgis: May 19-24; 7 p.m., nightly; Danny Bryant, preaching; Michael Ball, leading music; J. C. Prather, pastor.

McDowell Road, Jackson: May 31-June 5; 7:00 each evening; Lee Castro, evangelist, and The Castro Family, Kitty and Danny Jose', Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; Gary W. Rivers, pastor.

First, State Line: May 26-31; services 7 p.m. nightly; 11, Sunday morning; Lewis A. Curtis, retired professor, Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., evangelist; W. C. Rainey, Jr., Rainbow Ministries, Hattiesburg, music; Danny W. Rogers, pastor.

First, Runnelstown, Hattiesburg: youth revival; May 17-19; services 7:30 p.m. May, 17, 18; Sunday, May 19, 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.; supper to follow evening services in fellowship hall; Kenneth Moore, evangelist; Bubba Lammons, minister of music and youth, First, Runnelstown, music; Danny L. Chaney, pastor.

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Devotional On public prayer

By John Thomason

Our Father, who art in heaven . . . (Matt. 6:9).

Praying in public is one of the glad opportunities — and vocational liabilities — of Christian ministry.

Jesus left no instructions about public prayer, except to discourage it. Our Lord recognized the hazards of "practicing your piety before men." He directed his disciples to the prayer closet rather than the platform when they prayed.



And yet, public prayer is an inescapable part of worship leadership, table fellowship, and Christian citizenship. Eventually, all believers will be called upon to voice a prayer on behalf of a group of people. How does one approach such a task?

I recently gave the invocation at the monthly hearing of a state commission. The gentleman who invited me made two pointed requests: "Please don't preach; and please try to be brief." Apparently, some of the clergymen who preceded me at the rostrum had seized the occasion to prophesy instead of pray. To make matters worse, their "prayers" were sermon-length!

Come to think of it, Jesus offered a model prayer for all occasions — public as well as private. It contained the elements of adoration ("hallowed be thy name"), confession ("forgive us our debts"), intercession ("as we forgive our debtors"), and petition ("thy kingdom come"). Noticeably absent from the Lord's Prayer were the elements of information and exhortation.

How often have we heard a leader proceed to inform God about such matters as the weather, the state of the Union, church activities, and budget goals? How often has public prayer become a "bully pulpit" for the purpose of reprimanding or rallying the troops? "O Lord, thou knowest that we are running behind in this month's offering receipts . . ." "Dear God, grant that this legislature will do what is right on the gambling issue . . ." To whom are such prayers addressed? What is their purpose?

A Boston newspaper reporter once reviewed the pulpit performance of a well-known visiting preacher. In his Monday column he reported that "the famous Dr. . . . prayed the most eloquent prayer ever offered to a Boston audience."

The Lord's Prayer was offered within earshot of the disciples. But to whom was it addressed? "Our Father who are in heaven . . ." Not, "Our brother, who art in the balcony . . ."

Thomason is pastor, Northminster, Jackson.

Senior adult choirs sing in rotunda

The senior adult choir from State Boulevard Church, Meridian, sang in the rotunda of the Capitol in Jackson on May 3 at 11:30 a.m. Senior adults from Wildwood Church, Laurel, and from Harrisville Church sang in the rotunda also on May 3.

These groups were in Jackson for a celebration rally held at 6:30 that evening at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. They sang the new anthem, "May the Mind of Christ, My Savior," music and arrangement by Michael T. Smith, words by Kate Wilkinson, cover design by Emma Ainsworth.

The Joyful Noisemakers, senior adult choir from First Church, Starkville, provided entertainment at the rally.

On Saturday morning, May 4, these choirs sang the anthem during a Norma Zimmer concert at the Jackson City Auditorium.

Clarke Countians lead revivals in Steel Valley

Eleven persons from Clarke County Association in Mississippi went to Steel Valley Baptist Association in Warren, Ohio, to lead in simultaneous revivals April 28-May 2. Twenty-two Ohio churches participated.

Nineteen persons from other associations in Mississippi, as well as one or more from Ohio, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Maryland, Florida, Virginia, and Alabama, also took part.

Grady Crowell, director of missions, Clarke Association, reports that "at least 48 different persons prayed to receive Christ. This includes private and public decisions." There were also some additions by letter.

Frank Rush, pastor, dies

Frank Rush, resident of Mobile, Ala., since 1982, died March 25. He was a minister. His former pastorates in Mississippi included Enterprise Church; Trinity, Vicksburg; Dekalb; Mashulaville; Bay Springs; Bluff Springs; and Beat Line. He served as interim pastor at Linwood Church (Neshoba) and Vardaman Church (Kemper).

Rush attended Howard College (Spartanburg) and New Orleans Seminary. He had worked as a guidance counselor and instructor in psychology at East Mississippi Junior College. Also he taught math at Lynville High School, and was a guidance counselor at Dekalb High School and at Kemper Academy.

He was born in Wilcox County, Ala., July 27, 1916. He had been a member since 1982 of the Government Street Baptist Church (formerly West End) in Mobile.

Survivors include his wife, two children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

The great question is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with failure.

Thursday, May 16, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Names in the News



Three missionary kids (MK's) were recently inducted into the Camp and Gown chapter of Mortar Board at Mississippi College. Pictured, from left are Melissa Deever, Ivory Coast, West Africa; Terry Stella, Cheju, Korea; and Beth Raley, Taipei, Taiwan. Mortar Board is a national senior honor society whose members are selected on the basis of scholarship, leadership, service, and loyalty to the institution. The purpose of Mortar Board is to promote and maintain high standards of scholarship and to recognize and encourage leadership among its students.

Temple Church, Grenada, had an ordination service for deacons, Sunday afternoon, April 28. Those ordained were Joe Burns and Larry McCluney, Sr.

Missionary News

Carroll H. and Cheryl Camp, missionaries to Kenya, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o First Baptist Church, 100 South Main St., Honea Path, S.C. 29654). He is a native of Meridian, and she was born in South Carolina. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1979.

Michael David Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson of Amory, has earned recognition for the Ambassador Service National Award in Royal Ambassadors. This is the highest honor given to young men in Southern Baptist missions organizations. Michael received the award for completing 750 hours of service in his local church. The award is given as part of the Royal Ambassador Advancement plan. RAs is the Southern Baptist missions education organization for boys in grades 1-12. Michael is a member of First Church, Amory.

Staff Changes

Lajoyce Busby is the new pastor of Pilgrim's Rest Church, Calhoun County.

Danny Dodds has accepted the pastorate of Second Church, Kosciusko, Attala County.

John R. Woods has resigned as pastor of New Haven Church (Choc-taw), effective May 19. He is available for supply, interim pastor or pastor, and revivals. Woods may be contacted at Rt. 1, Sallis, Ms. 39160; or by phone (601) 289-2212.

Eddie Prince moved onto the field in March as pastor of Belleview Church, Shelby. He and his wife, Brenda, went to Bolivar Association from Oak Grove Church, Hernando. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary. They have one daughter.

Richard (Dick) Sellers has been called pastor of Merigold Church. He is a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Suzanne, are Texas natives.

First Indian Church goes over goal for home missions offering

First Indian Baptist Church, Pascagoula, has surpassed its Annie Armstrong Offering goal.

The church had also reached and passed its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal, reports the pastor, E. Ray Brooks.

During the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering emphasis in March, the pastor challenged the church to set its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal higher than their Lottie Moon

goal had been. "First," he said, "we care about all missions in America, and second, we receive assistance from the Home Mission Board through pastoral aid."

The Annie Armstrong goal was \$300. The Lottie Moon goal had been \$200. With the close of April 28, the Annie Armstrong Offering from First Indian Church was \$325. "We want to share the good news," said Brooks, "how God is blessing our commitment to mission giving."

Nigerian pastor killed in religious rioting

GOMBE, Nigeria (BP) — Nigerian Baptist pastor J. A. Awodiran and his church's custodian were killed and Awodiran's wife was injured in religious rioting that left more than 100 dead in Gombe, Nigeria, the last weekend in April.

Wiley and Geneva Faw from Kentucky and North Carolina, the only Southern Baptist missionaries in Gombe, opened their home to people fleeing the fighting over the weekend. But May 1 they called their daughter, Mira Reeves, in Lafayette, Ala., to say they were in nearby Jos for a few days' rest. They said Gombe had calmed and activities were returning to normal when they left.

Reeves said Awodiran, a long-time family friend, was already pastor of First Baptist Church, Gombe, when

her family moved there in 1970. He had eight or nine children and was pastor of a rapidly growing church that averaged about 800 in attendance each Sunday, she said. The church is building a new auditorium to seat 1,500.

Mary Ellen Yancey, Southern Baptist missionary who just arrived in the States from Nigeria, reported the Awodirans and the church custodian were caught in the fighting when they stopped their car at a roadblock.

Reports in Nigerian newspapers indicated about 150 died in the rioting. Shooting broke out April 26 when police tried to arrest Yusufu Adamu, the Gombe leader of the banned Maitatsine Islamic sect. Since 1980, northern Nigeria has suffered several outbreaks of violence related to the Maitatsine sect.



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Baptist Record

- Bible Book: *The purpose of Jesus' ministry*
- Uniform: *The value of wisdom*
- Life and work: *Don't preach at us*

The purpose of Jesus' ministry

By Bill R. Baker
Luke 18:35-19:27

Three purposes of Jesus' ministry are revealed in the lesson today. First, Jesus came to meet physical needs as illustrated by his healing the blind man; second, he came to seek and to save the lost as illustrated by his reaching out to Zacchaeus; third, he came to teach the doctrine of occupation as illustrated by the parable of the pounds.

Physical needs (18:35-43). The blind man is emblematic of all those who are unable to provide for personal needs. The thrilling statement is in verse forty when Jesus says, "bring him to me." All people need to be brought to Jesus, for he alone can satisfy the hungering and hurting of humanity. The twofold response from the blind man is interesting and instructive. He followed Jesus and he glorified God (v. 43). When Jesus asks today, "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?" perhaps his provision could be known to a greater degree if he could be assured that the recipients would follow him and glorify God.

Salvation (19:1-10). Seeking and saving, two key concepts in Jesus' ministry, are impressively illustrated in the salvation of Zacchaeus. In order

to get to Zacchaeus, Jesus had to scale the walls of Jericho, for he was chief among the publicans; reputation, since the publican was despised; wealth, for he was rich; and physical handicap, for he was short. Jesus also had to scale the wall of unconcerned and critical people who murmured because of his response (v. 7).

The conversion of Zacchaeus resulted in three commitments. First, he confessed Jesus Christ as Lord (v. 8). Second, he made a public commitment to share (v. 8 "half my goods I give to the poor.") Third, he committed himself to honesty and integrity (v. 8 "if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I will restore him fourfold.") True conversion will be accompanied by these signs.

Occupation (vs. 11-27). The purpose of Jesus' ministry is to commit certain treasures to his people who, in turn, are expected to fully occupy until he returns. One is fully occupying when he is using everything entrusted to him for the glory of God. Some are so afraid they will make a mistake that they do nothing, like the servant holding on to his one pound.

One may make a mistake trying to do something, but this is more commendable than making no mistake trying to do nothing. It is far better to know imperfection in doing something than to know perfection in doing nothing. There are individuals and churches doing a rather mediocre job of occupying until he comes, like the servant who reported a five-fold increase. Others are like the servant who faithfully invested the one pound and reported earnings of ten.

The two responses of Jesus to the stewardship reports of the servants should serve as both caution and challenge to the Christian today. On the one hand, Jesus said, "Give to him," (v. 17), as in the case of the first servant who was given authority over ten cities. On the other hand, Jesus said, "take from him," (v. 24), as in the case of the servant who made no progress in the Kingdom. Having been given the greatest opportunity for full occupation in the history of Christendom, it would be tragic for God to take from the church rather than give to the church because of the failure to fully occupy.

Baker is pastor, First, Clinton.

The value of wisdom

By W. Levon Moore
Proverbs 3:13-18; 8:6-11

The Book of Proverbs is a vital part of the Wisdom Literature of the Bible and might well be described as the Book of Wisdom. Many sections of the book are devoted to discussions of the meaning of wisdom, the characteristics of wisdom, and the benefits of wisdom.

I. The meaning of wisdom

There are, basically, two kinds of wisdom. First, there is an intellectual wisdom which may be defined as scholarly knowledge or learning. Second, there is a moral wisdom, which may be described as insight into what is true and right. There is a tremendous difference between these two kinds of wisdom. Unfortunately, most people seem more interested in attaining the first kind of wisdom rather than the second. Both kinds of wisdom involve knowledge, but the second type has a moral and spiritual dimension. This is the kind of wisdom with which the writer of Proverbs deals.

A study of this Wisdom Literature enables one to understand why it is possible for one to possess a great amount of knowledge yet not have wisdom. Also, some of the truly wise people of the world are fairly limited in scholarly knowledge. The writer of Proverbs does not attempt to set forth a definition of wisdom. Rather, he describes many of the characteristics and benefits of this unique treasure. He tells us what benefits wisdom brings into one's life, and encourages his readers to seek wisdom at all costs. It is the quality of life which gives significance to all other virtues.

II. Characteristics of wisdom

True wisdom is rooted and grounded in the fear, or worship, of the Lord (1:7). Therefore, the first characteristic of wisdom is godliness. The author declares that "The Lord giveth wisdom" (2:6). Since wisdom comes from God, it bears the character of the one who gives it. Therefore, one may rightly attribute to wisdom many of the characteristics of God. In addition to being godly, or holy, wisdom, of necessity, bears the characteristics of love, justice, mercy, love and peace.

Wisdom is that unseen but dynamic quality of man's being which assures the effective use of all his other attributes.

When God created man in his own image, he endowed man with an intellectual capacity superior to that of any other creation. This enabled man to make intelligent, or not-so-intelligent, choices through the exercise of his will. The supreme distinction of man, however, is his spiritual nature and the ability to communicate with God. The exercise of his in-

telligent will within the framework of his spiritual nature gives a moral character to his thoughts, choices and actions.

Only the person who is rightly related to God has the capacity to experience the kind of wisdom found in the Book of Proverbs.

III. Benefits of wisdom

According to the writer of Proverbs, there is a relationship between wisdom and the commandments of the Lord. In the search for wisdom, one finds the first benefit to be the knowledge of God (2:15).

A second benefit is happiness (3:13). This happiness is described as being better than silver, fine gold, or rubies (3:14-15).

A third benefit is length of days, riches and honor (3:16).

A fourth benefit is peace (3:17).

A fifth benefit is life. Wisdom is described as "a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her" (3:18).

It was impossible for the writer of Proverbs, and it is impossible for us, to enumerate all the benefits of wisdom.

In the larger text, the author summed up the matter when he wrote, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding" (4:7). Also, the last verse in our focal passage states, "For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it" (8:11).

Moore is director of missions, Atlanta Association.

— Off the Record —

A mother, annoyed because her 14-year-old daughter had been calling her boyfriend too frequently, took a tip from a former wartime advertisement and posted a sign over the telephone: "Is This Call Necessary?"

The next day there appeared, penciled on the card, a brief but logical reply: "How can I tell until I've made it?"

Don't preach at us

By James F. Yates
Micah 2:1-4, 6-11

The abuses of Micah's time read like a catalog of our own contemporary social sins. Here in chapter 2 we see the unscrupulous use of power. These abuses are by men who do as they please because they have the power to do so. This power was used for the cruel oppression and exploitation of the poor. There were evictions, repressions, underpayment, excessive charges, and the like. Today a similarity could be seen in time payments, loan-sharking, false advertising, and other methods of leading people to overbuy and become entrapped in a web of debt from which they can never free themselves.

God punishes evil wherever he finds it, especially when it shows up in his chosen people. The prophet is particularly harsh in his judgments against sins of exploitation, corruption in government, and dishonesty in the marketplace, because they are sins of man against man. Micah is seen here as a friend of the poor and oppressed.

The wealthy were so interested in exploiting that they were unable to sleep at night. They spent these wakeful hours devising schemes to defraud and dispossess their fellow countrymen. When daylight came they proceeded to execute their plots. They had such power that they could do almost anything they wished (v. 1). In a day when wealth consisted largely of real estate, these unscrupulous people had a mania for acquiring houses and lands. This was accomplished by resorting to seizure,

theft, and violence (v. 2). The specific methods used to obtain these possessions are not stated. As the poor and middle classes of Palestine had their inherited estates taken from them, these dispossessed people and their families were reduced to a practical and often acute condition of slavery.

These evils were not peculiar to Judah. The practice of the rich reducing the poor to abject poverty is common to most cultures and historical periods. The same evil is rampant today and will lead twentieth-century man to ruin just as certainly as it did Judah in the eighth century B.C.

In verses 3 and 4 Micah announced God's judgment upon them. "This family" refers to the exploiting classes of Jerusalem who were glorying in their day of opportunity. Just as their own victims were helpless, so will they be helpless and unable to extricate their necks from his yoke of calamity. They will not swagger around haughtily, but will bend under his yoke like laden beasts of burden (v. 3). Perhaps as difficult as anything else for the Judeans to hear is the threat that these strangers who will dispossess them will then laugh at them and taunt them with historical references (v. 4).

The Biblical text suggests that Micah was interrupted at this point in his sermon by hecklers who shouted something like, "Don't preach like that! You're trying to mix politics and religion! What right have you to meddle in our affairs? Stick to preaching and we'll run the community."

Micah was neither the first nor the last preacher to be told to confine his preaching to people's souls and to steer clear of such "unspiritual" matters as politics, economics, and the problems of society. There are always those who want never to apply religion to life. The deeper lesson to be learned here is that no church, indeed no society, can long endure that refuses to meet its social obligations.

Micah's reply to those who claimed that God blessed the upright (v. 7) was that they had no right to claim such promises for themselves, for they had risen up like an enemy against the Lord's people (v. 8). The acid test of any person's religion is how he or she treats other persons, especially those who are unable to defend themselves.

The prophet returns to his discourse in verse 8 with a fresh attack on the gangsterism which was prevalent in Judah. Robber gangs were oppressing the poor and seizing their property. Even women and young children were being evicted from their homes (v. 9). To Micah it seemed tragic that a whole generation of children should be exploited into want and misery.

Micah told the oppressors to prepare to leave the land at once (v. 10). They would be taken into Exile, for by their crimes they had forfeited their right to find rest in the land.

Finally, in verse 11, he seems to contrast a true prophet and a false prophet. He is talking about the kind of preacher they would like to hear. In essence, he says to the people, "You

really do not want the truth. If a windbag comes along and promises to preach lies in return for wine and strong drink, you would make him your preacher." Things had come to such a plight that all seemed hopeless.

Yates is pastor, First, Yazoo City.

Baptist Record

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